

**Working Session**

Mayor McNinch called the Working Session of the Denton Town Council to order at 6:00 PM on this date, leading everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

**In Attendance:**

Council: Mayor McNinch, Councilman Branson, Councilman Lister and Councilman Johnson were present. Councilman Porter arrived at 6:01 PM, following the Pledge.

Staff: Mr. Don Mulrine, Town Administrator, Lt. George Bacorn and Mrs. Karen Monteith, Clerk-Treasurer.

**Discussion was held on the following topics:**

**Caroline County Board of Education**

Representative from the Caroline County Board of Education – Mr. Tolbert Rowe, Board Member, Dr. Patricia Saelens, Interim Superintendent, and Mr. Milton Nagel, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services, came before the Council. Discussion was held regarding the Board of Education’s plans for the Double Hills Rd. property, that the County is offering to them.

Mr. Nagel shared that the first phase would be to construct a warehouse to combine all their office and janitorial supplies in one location, to reduce renting space, as they do now. Creating a partnership with other agencies to provide a cost savings on supplies. Provided a time line and overview of their future needs and plans to construct a new tech school.

There was also discussion about access to the parcels and annexation, and needing Town services.

The Council shared concerns about the County’s previous inquiry for bringing this land into Town. And indicated that the Town requires a site plan for the lands to be considered for annexation. The Town has an obligation to insure adequate Town services (water and sewer) are available for all properties within the Town limits, when looking to annex additional lands.

The BOE will update the Town as they move forward with their proposed project.

**Caroline Economic Development Corp.**

Representative from the Caroline County Economic Development Board – John Phillips, Jeanette Delude, Mickey Fluharty, Fred Hubbard, Joe Anderson, Dan Franklin, CEDC Board Liaison and County Commission President came before the Council. Also, joined by Ceres Bainbridge, Tourism Director, Kathy Mackel, former Tourism Director and Mr. JOK Walsh.

Discussion was held regarding the changes the CEDC is dealing with, since the Caroline County Commissioners have announced they are taking over Economic Development and will staff this new department; and what the future holds are for Caroline County Office of Tourism.

The CEDC members assured the Town it is committed to maintain Caroline County Tourism and have the agency occupy the Crouse Park Visitor Center, once the construction is complete.

Further discussion was held on the content of a lease agreement to be prepared for consideration of approval at a future date.

Caroline County Commission President, Mr. Dan Franklin, stated the County recognizes the importance of Tourism and provided assurance that the County will continue their \$87K contribution for Tourism.

The Council discussed placing any rents in a capital reserve for future building maintenance, and worked with Staff on additional lease questions.

**Plain Dealings**

Mr. Mulrine shared with the Council that the contractor, Mr. Tarbutton has resigned from handling the demolition of 808 S 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. Mr. Mulrine provided additional information pertaining

to discussions with the second bidder, JNT, LLC and Linchester Trading. This item will be on the next agenda for consideration of assigning the award to a new contractor.

**WWTP Load Report**

Mr. Mulrine shared and provided an explanation of the WWTP Calendar Year Total Cumulative Load Report, indicating Staff has done an exceptional job in maintaining compliance with the Wastewater Discharge Permits, keeping the Town nitrogen and phosphorous under regulations by 50%. Proclamation honoring staff will be prepared for presentation at the next regular meeting.

**Audit Selection**

Audit proposals were provided to each Council member. Councilman Porter has agreed to help staff with the selection process.

This item will be on the next agenda for consideration.

**Strategic Planning**

A strategic planning meeting is scheduled for 1:00PM on January 30, 2017.

Mayor McNinch asked for everyone to bring ideas.

**Board of Appeal Application**

Mr. Mulrine shared that the Town has received a Board of Appeals application from Mr. Jesmer and his Attorney. The Board of Appeals will hire a separate Attorney to represent them. The BOA meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 27.

Councilman Porter, was not feeling well and left at 8:00PM.

**Miscellaneous**

Councilman Johnson and Mr. Mulrine talked about trash collection concerns in Mallard. Mr. Mulrine announced that staff will be advertising for bids in March for a new hauler.

Mr. Mulrine and staff will be attending Mallard's HOA meeting scheduled for February 1.

Mayor McNinch requested an update be provided at the February meeting.

Discussion was held on Town projects, priorities, improving the efficiency of Town services provided, staffing needs and salaries.

With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch adjourned the working session at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Monteith,  
Clerk - Treasurer